

Developmental Delays

Potential signs of developmental delays and other risk factors that could indicate disabilities.

Each child develops somewhat differently than another child. At the same time childhood development also occurs at fairly predictable ages for a typical child. Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye bye" are called developmental milestones. Children reach milestones in playing, learning, speaking, behaving, and moving (crawling, walking, etc.). A developmental delay is when your child does not reach these milestones at the same time as other children the same age. If your child is not developing properly, there are things you can do that may help to prevent a disability in the future. Most of the time, a developmental problem is not something your child will "grow out of" on his or her own.

The following signs could indicate a possible developmental delay. If you have concerns with the development of your child, a relative or neighbor, talk with you doctor, the Dallastown School District Director of Special Education at 747-9400 or the Lincoln Intermediate Unit Supervisor of Preschool Services at 717-624-6475.

Developmental Alerts to Watch				
1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
Does not crawl	Cannot walk by 18 months	Frequent falling and difficulty with stairs	Cannot throw a ball overhand	Acts extremely fearful or timid
Drags one side of body while crawling (for over one month)	Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks only on his toes	Persistent drooling or very unclear speech	Cannot jump in place	Acts extremely aggressively
Cannot stand when supported	Does not speak at least 15 words	Cannot build a tower of more than four blocks	Cannot ride a tricycle	Is unable to separate from parents without major protest
Does not search for objects that are hidden while he or she watches	Does not use two-word sentences by age 2	Difficulty manipulating small objects	Cannot grasp a crayon between thumb and fingers	Is easily distracted and unable to concentrate on any single activity for more than five minutes
Says no single words ("mama" or "dada")	By 15 months, does not seem to know the function of	Cannot copy a circle by age 3	Has difficulty scribbling	Shows little interest in playing with other children
Does not		No involvement in "pretend" play	Cannot stack four blocks	Refuses to respond to people in general, or responds only superficially
		Does not understand simple instructions	Still clings or cries whenever parents	Rarely uses fantasy or imitation

<p>learn to use gestures, such as waving or shaking head</p> <p>Does not point to objects or pictures</p> <p>Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had</p>	<p>common household objects (brush, telephone, bell, fork, spoon)</p> <p>Does not imitate actions or words by the end of this period</p> <p>Does not follow simple instructions by age 2</p> <p>Cannot push a wheeled toy by age 2</p> <p>Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had</p>	<p>Little interest in other children</p> <p>Extreme difficulty separating from mother or primary caregiver</p> <p>Poor eye contact</p> <p>Limited interest in toys</p> <p>Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had</p>	<p>leave</p> <p>Shows no interest in interactive games</p> <p>Ignores other children</p> <p>Doesn't respond to people outside the family</p> <p>Doesn't engage in fantasy play</p> <p>Resists dressing, sleeping, using the toilet</p> <p>Lashes out without any self-control when angry or upset</p> <p>Cannot copy a circle</p> <p>Doesn't use sentences of more than three words</p> <p>Doesn't use "me" and "you" correctly</p> <p>Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had</p>	<p>in play</p> <p>Seems unhappy or sad much of the time</p> <p>Doesn't engage in a variety of activities</p> <p>Avoids or seems aloof with other children and adults</p> <p>Doesn't express a wide range of emotions</p> <p>Has trouble eating, sleeping, or using the toilet</p> <p>Can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality</p> <p>Seems unusually passive</p> <p>Cannot understand two-part commands using prepositions ("Put the doll on the bed, and get the ball under the couch.")</p> <p>Can't correctly give her first and last name</p> <p>Doesn't use plurals or past tense properly when speaking</p> <p>Doesn't talk about her daily activities and experiences</p> <p>Cannot build a tower of six to eight blocks</p> <p>Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon</p>
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				Has trouble taking off clothing Cannot brush her teeth efficiently Cannot wash and dry her hands Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had
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